Since 2002, Addis Ababa’s urban resettlement programme has primarily focused on short-term efficiency (speed and affordability), which resulted in housing policies and design-decisions that have produced problematic living conditions. This studio will investigate solutions for development induced resettlement processes based on a critical assessment of the relations between spatial configuration, patterns of inhabitation and processes of community engagement.

The goal of the graduation studio is to research and design housing solutions to improve the livelihood of Addis Ababa’s urban dwellers. Combining analysis, planning and design, the participants in this graduation studio will be challenged to use multidisciplinary research methods and tools to elaborate design proposals for the development of a pilot housing project in Addis Ababa.

This studio is part of the NWO WOTRO research project “2ALL - Addis Ababa Living Lab: Creating Resilient Dwelling Clusters for Urban Resettlement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia”, currently being developed by a consortium that includes TU Delft, Mecanoo Architecten, and local partners. The studio is organized in collaboration with EiABC, the architecture school of Addis Ababa University, and will cooperate with local and global housing experts.

During the first semester, the participants in the studio will research the relations between housing and society, with a special focus on cases from cities of the global urban South undergoing a process of rapid urbanization. These studies will support the development in the second semester of the project’s architectural solutions, detailing the design decisions in parallel with a critical assessment of the project’s social, economic and environmental sustainability.
The aging society asks for architectural designs in which people can grow old.

As care needs to change to a more informal support system, we need to offer an environment for a mixed community, where the elderly are empowered as well to stay independent. At this moment our housing designs and environments are not well-equipped for this need.

Within the MSc 3 Studio we will design homes for an inclusive living environment. How do we want to live when we are old and when we need care but do not want to be excluded from society? What kind of buildings and neighborhoods do we need to make that possible?

You will search for new concepts for dwelling and neighborhoods that include the less mobile and more vulnerable elderly.

The design assignment involves the design of a housing project and its environment. Main focus is the discussion about an environment, in which elderly with care demands and others will be part of the community. Different groups of our society and different functions may be possible ingredients of your design.

We will closely work together with a housing association that is specialized in housing the elderly and is searching for ‘out of the box’ design approaches to change the paradigm of caring for and housing the elderly. To understand the target group and their demands you will do human centered research about elderly in daily life.

Special: sessions with MBE to check the affordability.
How do we provide high-quality, affordable housing for a diverse population? How can our designs contribute to a lively and vibrant live-work environment? and How can we limit our ecological footprint with smart, future-proof and sustainable design solutions?

These questions are central to the Advanced Housing Design Graduation Studio (AR3AD100). You will tackle them in the context of the M4H-area in Rotterdam, on the north bank of the Maas river. The municipality’s objective here is to create an innovative live-work environment, intended to bring together creativity, innovation and making. You will contribute a mixed residential-work building to this former harbour area.

The second strand of research involves adopting techniques from anthropology to conduct research into the relationship between humans and their buildings. After the anthropological phase, in which you observe human behaviour in your case study building, you will enter an analytical phase, in which you analyse the spatial and material context of acts of collectiveness.

We identify two strands of research within the studio. The first involves reading and studying Richard Sennett’s ideas of the open city – as expressed in his book ‘Building and Dwelling. Ethics for the City’ – and analysing built forms which are incarnations of these ideas.